Remarks

It is observed that the Examiner rejected claims 11-20 as being unpatentable over Pickering (US-6,168,567) in view of Ogura (US2002/0120199). Claims 21-25 were instead rejected as being unpatentable over Shirasaki in view of Park and further in view of Sjonell.

It is observed that the Examiner is of the opinion that Pickering discloses all of the features of claims 11, 14 and 17, but the features according to which the sphygmic pulses are detected and stored in chart form and that the chart shows all the pulses detected by the means.

Those features are, according to the Examiner, disclosed by Ogura that teaches a blood pressure measuring apparatus which detects and stores measured pulses in waveform.
Indeed, Ogura discloses an entire waveform that is used to be compared with other waveforms that are detected at different times. The waveforms are complete measurements of the pressure taken by an oscillometric BP measuring method.

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of present claims 11, 14 and 17.
Independent claim 11 does not relate to a device as could be obtained by combining the references to Pickering and Ogura.

In fact, the applicant's invention, as defined in claim 11, allows to obtain a comparison between two different techniques that are used to measure the pressure.
In other words, the device allows to compare the sphygmic pulsed detected by means adapted to detect (electronically) all the sphgmic pulses generated by arterial pulsation, that is the sphygmic pulses detected by means of transducer meas, with the pulses that the operator can detect (for the systolic and diastolic pressure) using a different technique, that

is a stethoscope, for example.

This means that the device and also the method of the present invention allow to "validate" the measurement that is performed by means of the stethoscope.
Therefore, the user can ascertain if the systolic and diastolic values that he/she has detected find any correspondence in the chart of the sphygmic pulses that are detected continuously by the "electronic technique".
Neither Ogura nor Pickering suggest the possibility of measuring the sphygmic pulses with a device that stores in chart form those same pulses and further allows the operator to mark on the same chart those pulses that he detects with a manual conventional technique(that is a stethoscope, for example), so as to perform a comparison of the two "readings" on a same chart, not of two complete readings at of the pressure at different times.

The combination of Pickering with Ogura would allow to detect and store those sphygmic pulses in chart form and to compare two different and complete readings of the pressure at different times. No validation of the detected values of the pressure would therefore be possible, but only a comparison of the pressure waveforms at two distinct times.

On the contrary, in the applicant's claimed invention as claimed in independent claims 11 and 17 (and also in claim 27) the pulses of a single measurement can be validated by comparing the results of two different techniques, an electronic one and a manual one.
The results of the two techniques are shown on a same chart and at the same time, so that the comparison can be immediate.

That is to say, the operator that uses the device of the present invention will be presented with a chart wherein all the sphygmic pulses are reported on a chart with their respective values and on the same chart and at the same time the pulses (that relate to systolic and diastolic pressure) detected by the manual technique are marked on the chart.

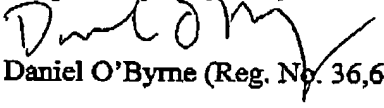
In this way the operator can reach a higher degree of certainty about the result of the measurement, being able to "validate" the results by comparing the results of the two techniques and being able, on a same chart, to correctly identify the systolic and diastolic values, ignoring the values that can be the results of disturbs (for example movements of the arm of the patient) or interferences.

Although it is believed that the pending claims are new and unobvious over the cited prior art document, the applicant has further amended claims 11, 17 and 27 so as to better define the applicant's invention over the prior art.

The application is thus believed to be in order for acceptance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner need further clarifications, an informal interview with the Examiner would be appreciated.

In any case the applicant is open to any suggestion the Examiner may have to improve the wording of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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